

Attorney Docket No. 1204E

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lori Carrigan Date: Dec. 10, 2002
Serial No.: 09/490,884 Group Art Unit: 1638
Filed: January 24, 2000 Examiner: Ashwin D. Mehta
For: "INBRED MAIZE LINE PH51H"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RULE 132 DECLARATION
OF
DR. STEPHEN SMITH

Sir:

I, Stephen Smith, PhD., do hereby declare and say as follows:

1. I am skilled in the art of the field of the invention. I have a Ph.D. in Biochemical Systematics and Taxonomy of Maize and its Wild Relatives from Birmingham University. I have a M.Sc. in the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources from Birmingham University. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Sciences from London University. Since 1977 I have been engaged in the development, study and application of molecular markers to genetics, measuring genetic diversity and tracking pedigrees. I commenced this work at North Carolina State University as a post-doctoral research fellow. I have continued my engagement in these studies during my employment by Pioneer Hi-Bred from 1980 until the present. These studies have resulted in numerous scientific articles that have appeared in peer reviewed scientific literature.
2. I have read and understood the Office Action in the above case dated August 26, 2002. This declaration is in response to the Examiner's rejection under, 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Piper (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,001).
3. I have conducted an analysis of SSR marker data for inbred PH51H and the inbred cited as prior art, PH1W0. Out of a total of 161 SSR loci examined, which allowed a sampling of each chromosome, there are 26 markers that show differences between PH51H and PH1W0. This represents a difference for 16% for the markers

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tested. Of these 26 markers, 13 were greater than 50 cM in distance, or unlinked on the genetic map.

4. Upon crossing PH51H to any other maize line and selfing successive filial generations, one would within the realm of what is statistically possible, obtain a progeny inbred maize line that retains genetic contribution from PH51H. Assuming that (i) the cited prior art is used as the maize line to which PH51H is crossed, (ii) that the only difference between PH51H and PH1W0 are these 26 markers, and (iii) that all markers within a 50 cM distance will segregate together, then the odds of obtaining a PH51H progeny inbred that is the same as PH1W0 after one cycle of breeding, is 1 in 2^{13} or 1 in 8,192. Statistically it is extremely unlikely that a PH51H progeny, after one cycle of breeding, would be the same as PH1W0.

5. Further, the assumptions made above vastly overstate the likelihood of breeding PH51H from PH1W0. For example, it is common practice in quantitative genetics to determine the relation of plants by differences in markers. In doing so, one extrapolates that a percentage difference in markers is indicative of a difference in the whole genome. To assume that the only differences between PH51H and PH1W0 are for these 26 markers, when 26 markers constitute 16% of the 161 SSR loci examined, is a gross and unrealistic assumption. Further the current maize genetic map only has approximately sixty 50cM units, so by applying this limitation the maximum number of independently segregating loci one could obtain, using the most different maize lines that could ever be found, is sixty. These assumptions result in an over estimate of the odds of breeding PH51H from PH1W0.

6. Given the difference in molecular markers between PH51H and PH1W0, it is my expert opinion that PH51H and PH1W0 are very distinct inventions. It is also my expert opinion that, within the realm of what is statistically possible, any progeny of PH51H developed through crossing PH51H with another plant will be distinct from PH1W0. Given the facts and based on my education and scientific experience, I believe that the invention as claimed is not obvious nor anticipated by Piper (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,001).

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Date:

Dec 11 2002

By:

Stephen Smith

Stephen Smith